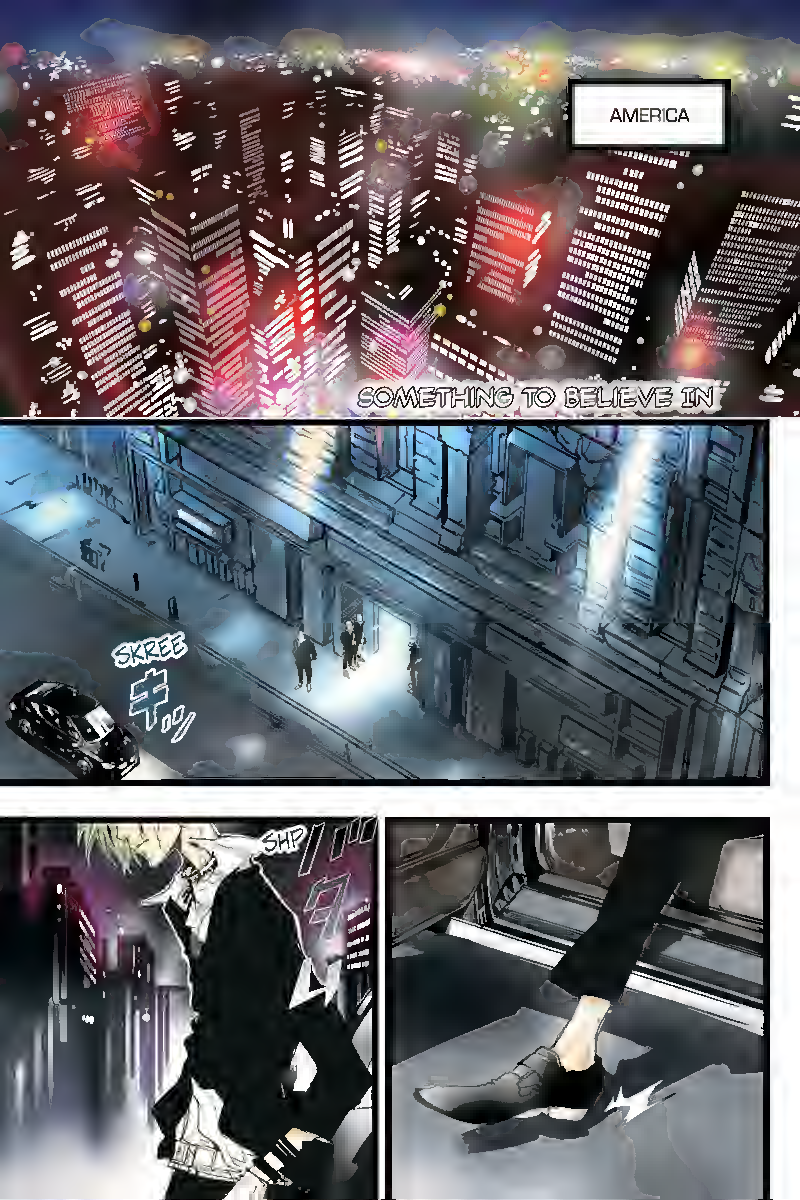
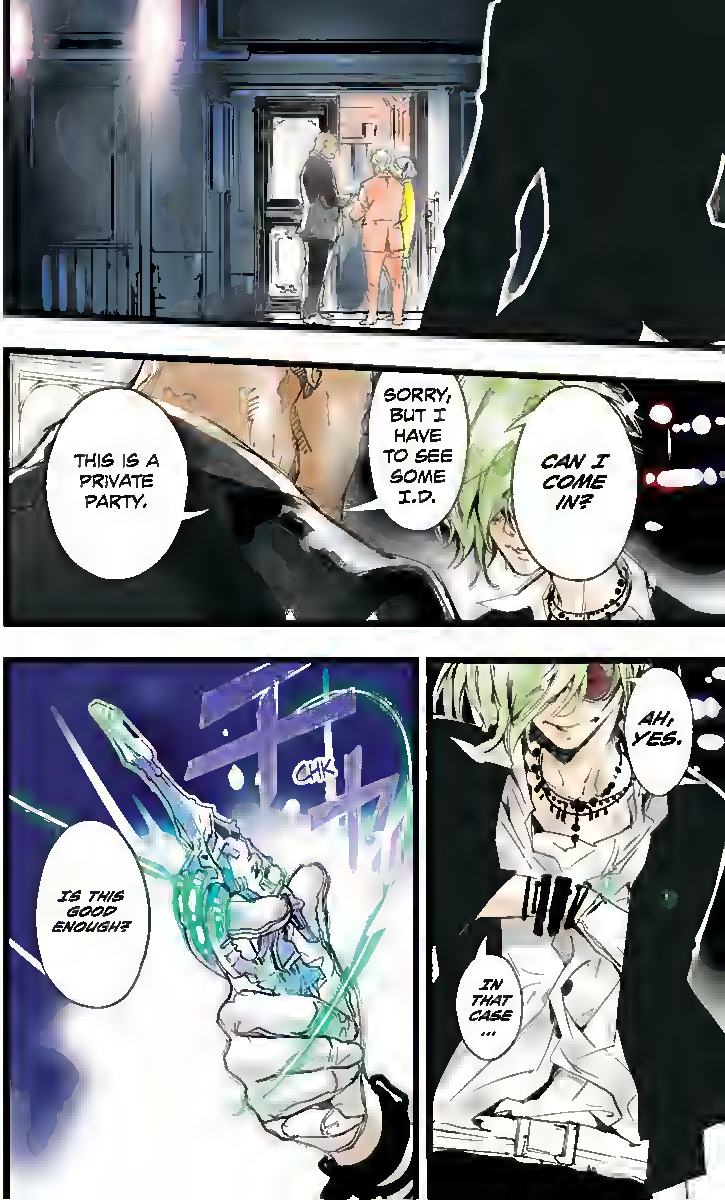
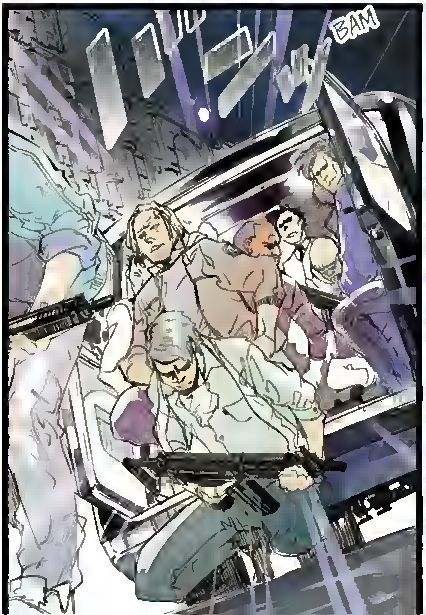
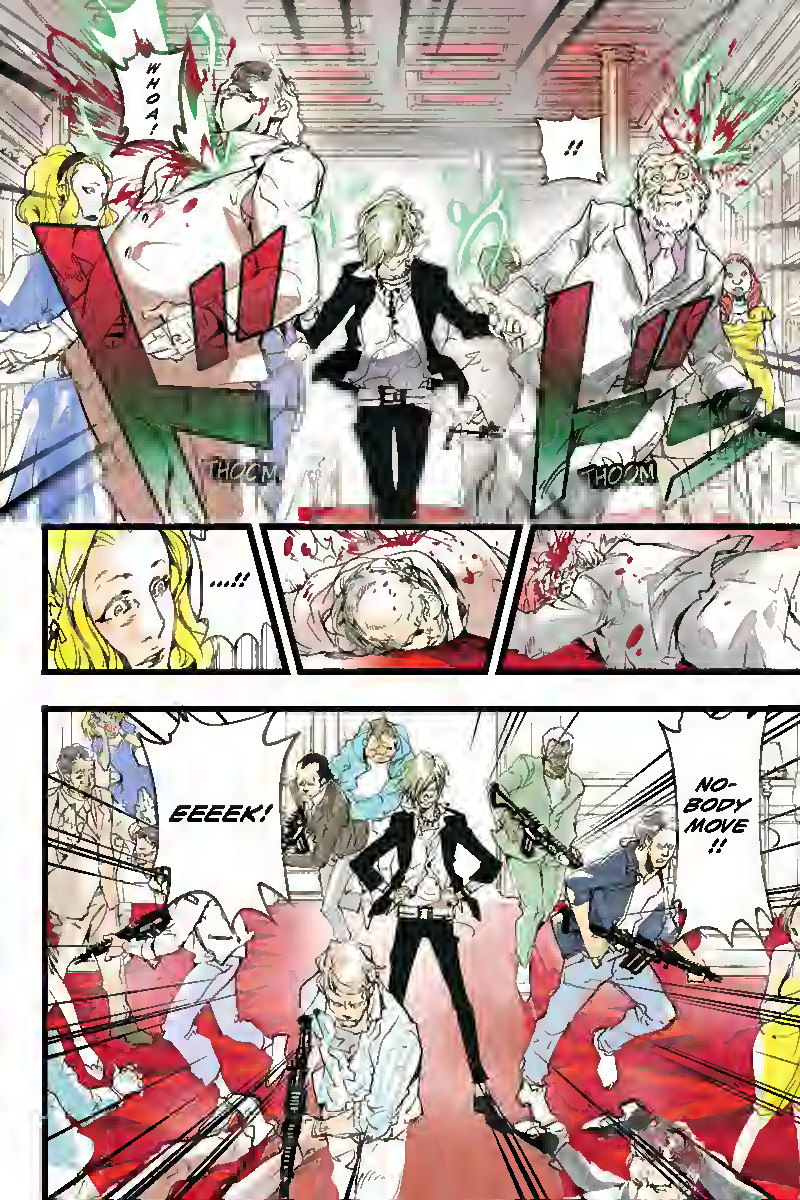

AMERICA
SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN
SKREE
SHP

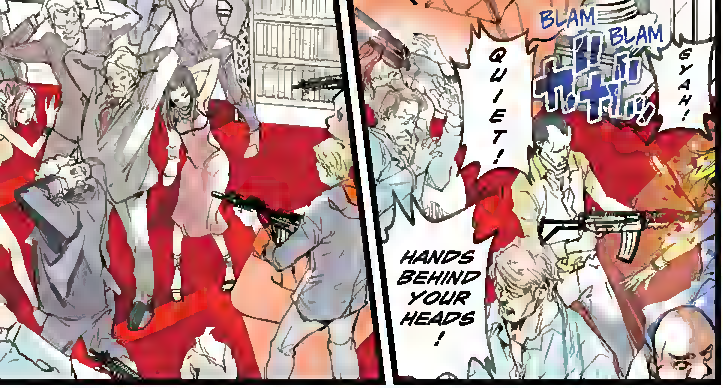

CAN I COME IN?
SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO SEE SOME I.D.
THIS IS A PRIVATE PARTY.
AH, YES.
IN THAT CASE ...
CHK
IS THIS GOOD ENOUGH?

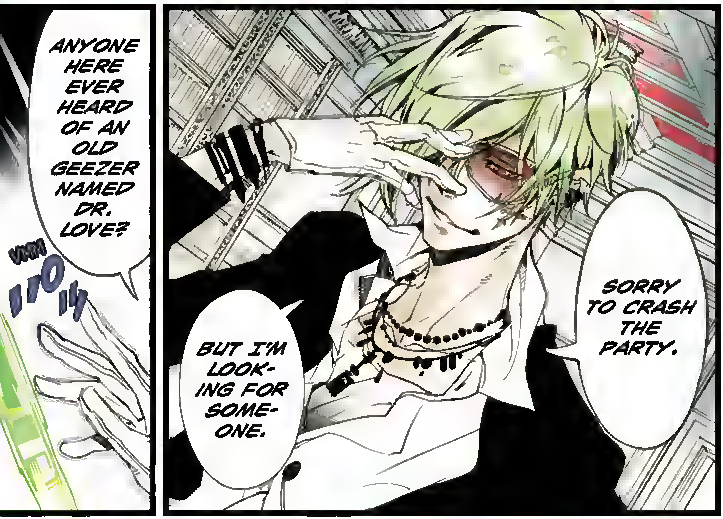
BANG

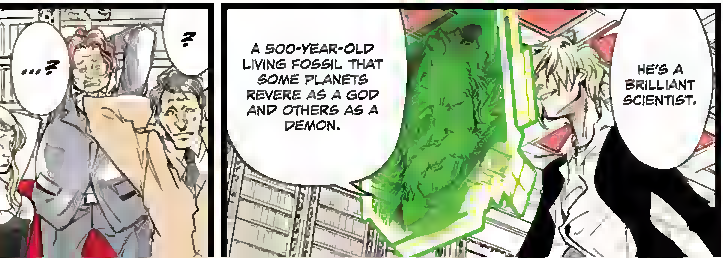

BAM

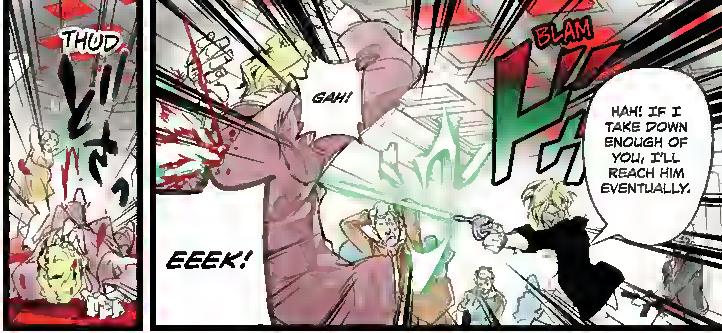
MY DAD ...
THUD
GYAH

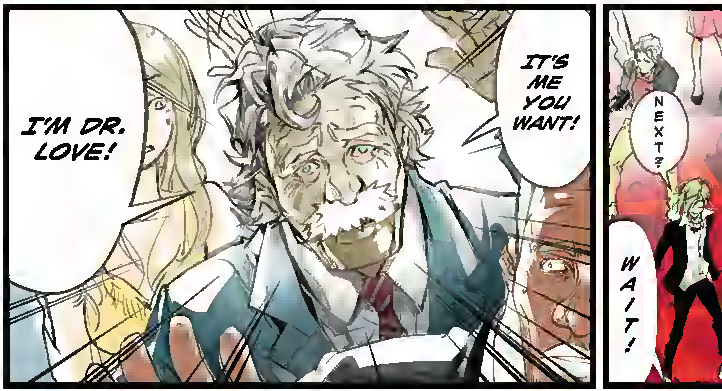

WHOA!
!!
BOOM
BOOM
...!!
EEEEK!
NO-BODY MOVE !!

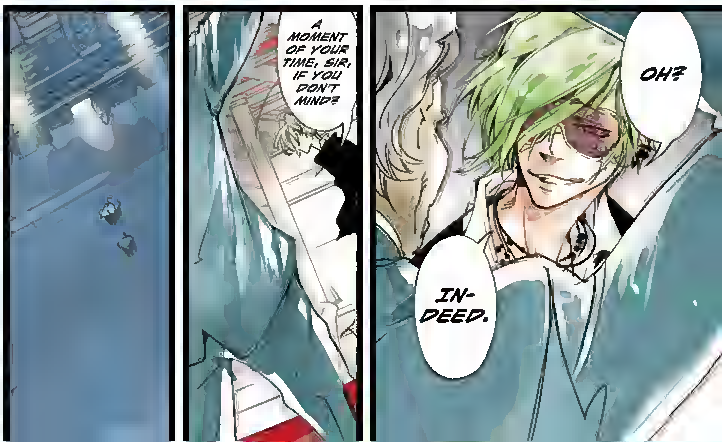

BLAM
BLAM
SYAH!
QUIET!
HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEADS!


ANYONE HERE EVER HEARD OF AN OLD GEEZER NAMED DR. LOVE?
VOOM
SORRY TO CRASH THE PARTY.
BUT I'M LOOK-ING FOR SOME-ONE.


...?
?
A 500-YEAR-OLD LIVING FOSSIL THAT SOME PLANETS REVERE AS A GOD AND OTHERS AS A DEMON.
HE'S A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST.


THUD
BLAM
GAH!
EEEK!
HAH! IF I TAKE DOWN ENOUGH OF YOU, I'LL REACH HIM EVENTUALLY.

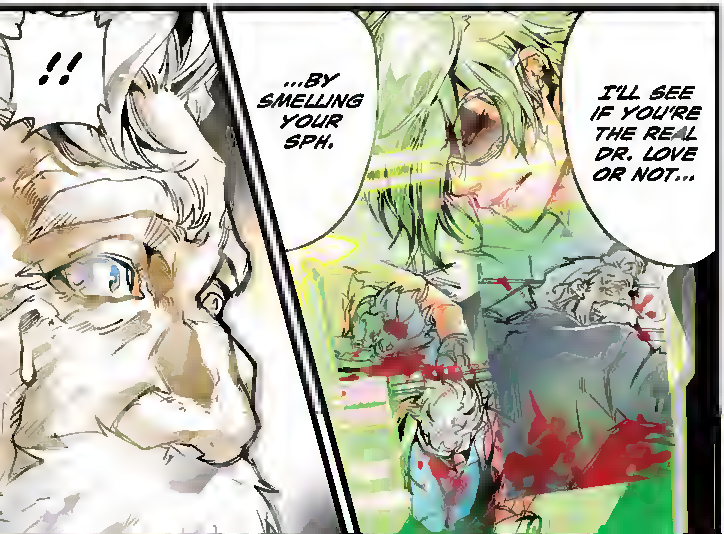

I'M DR. LOVE!
IT'S ME YOU WANT!
NEXT?
WAIT!

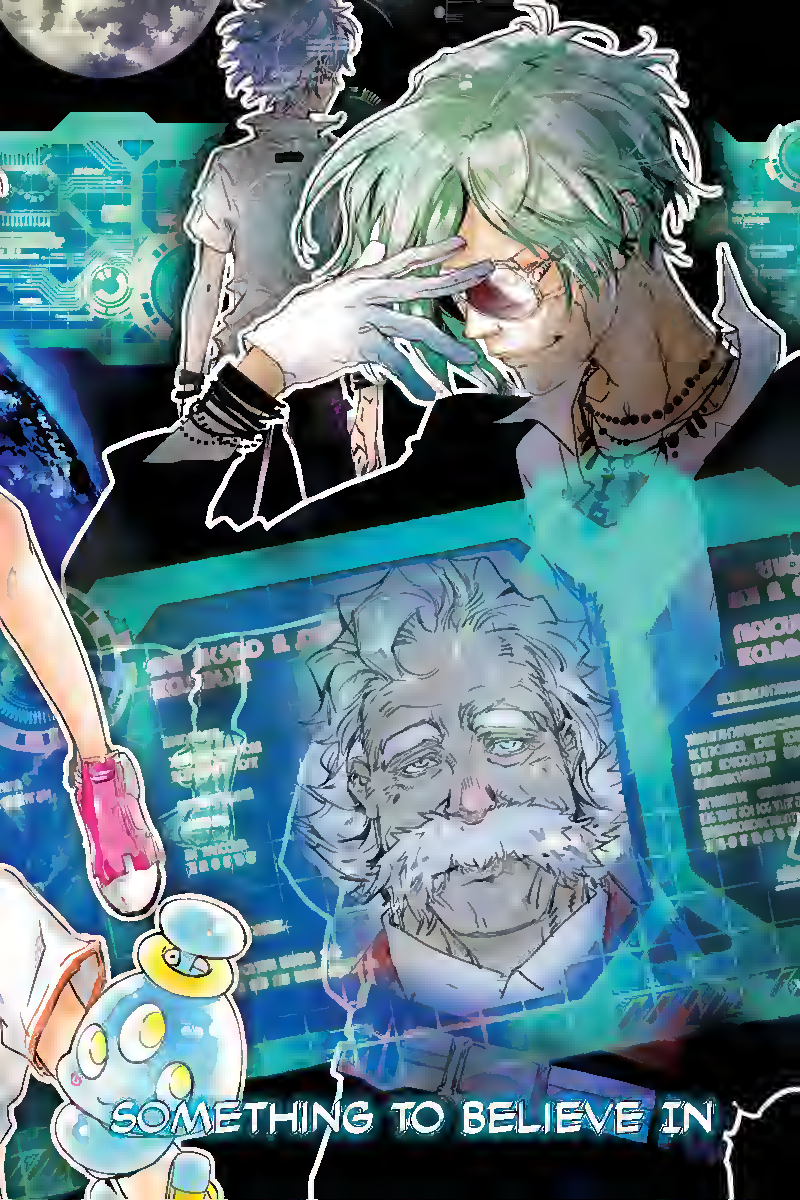

A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME, SIR, IF YOU DON'T MIND?
OH?
IN-DEED.

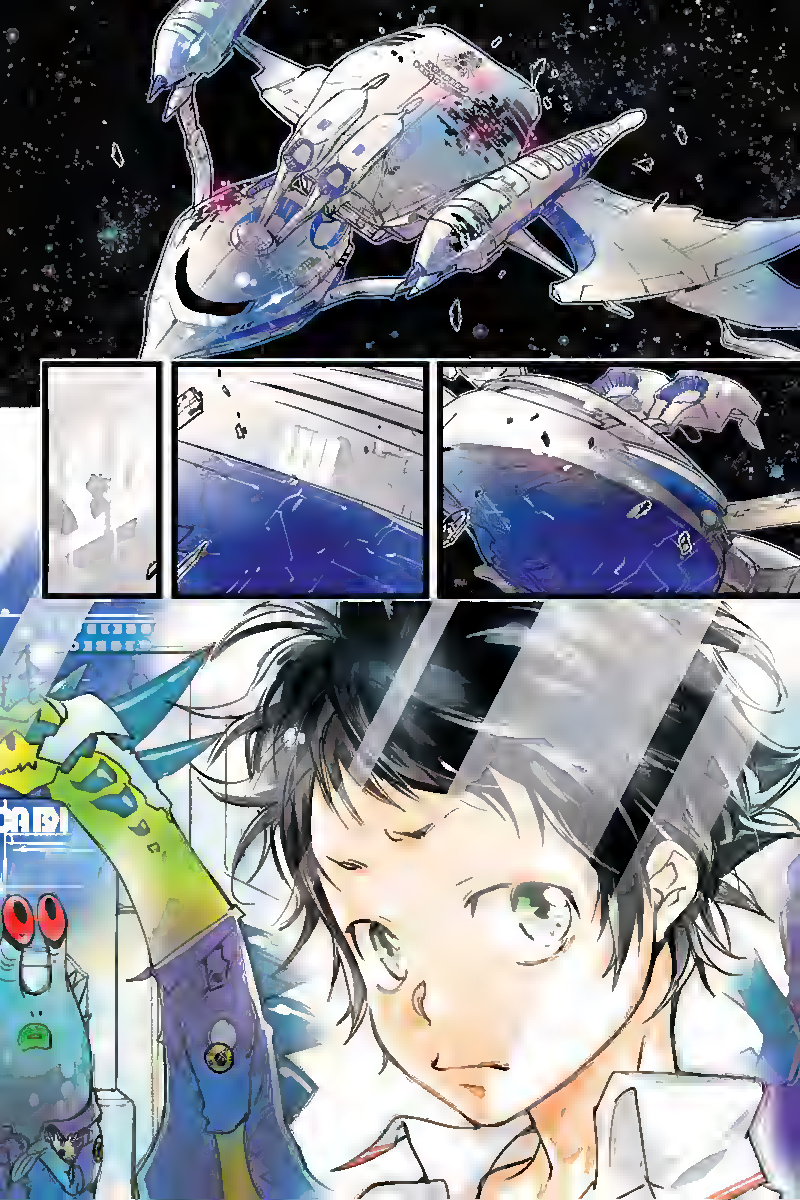
WHO ARE YOU?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
WHAT I WANT IS YOUR BRAIN.
WHAT?!
OOPS.
I ALMOST FORGOT.
MY FRIENDS...
?!
HUH?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
WHY AM I HOLDING A GUN?
I WAS ON MY WAY TO PICK UP MY SON...
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, GUYS!
?!
BEEP
!!
BEEP

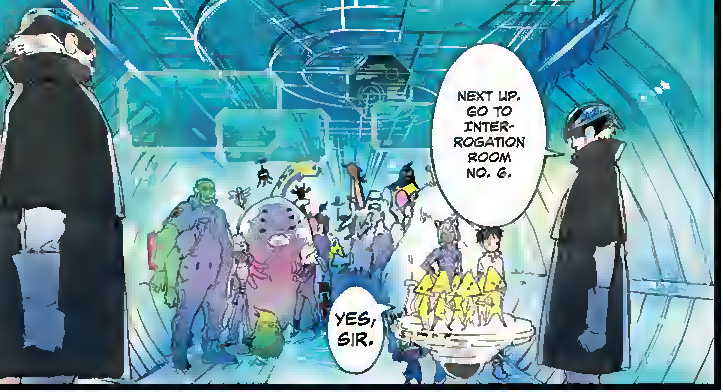
BOOM

?
I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH TOO MANY IMPOSTORS.


!!
...BY SMELLING YOUR SPH.
I'LL SEE IF YOU'RE THE REAL DR. LOVE OR NOT...


SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN

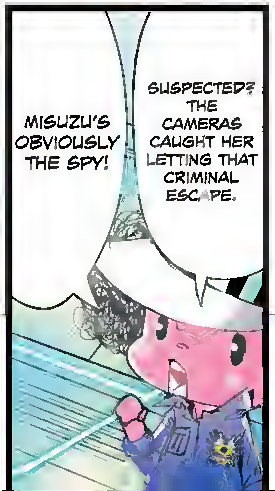


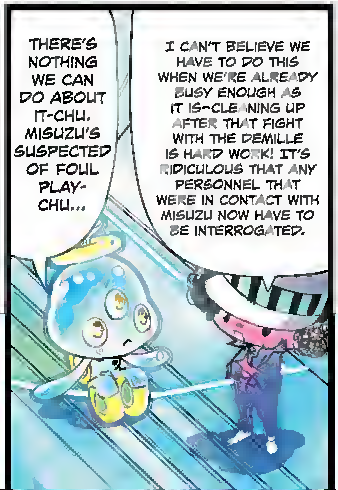

NEXT UP. GO TO INTER-ROGATION ROOM NO. 6.
YES, SIR.

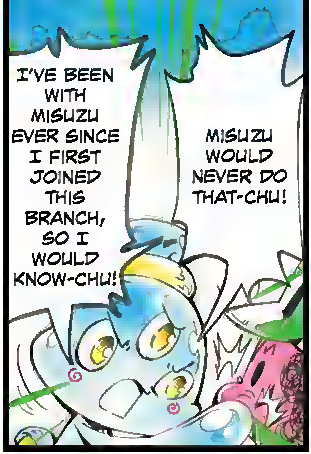
BYE!
PI-PU!
SEE YA!

THAT'S ..!

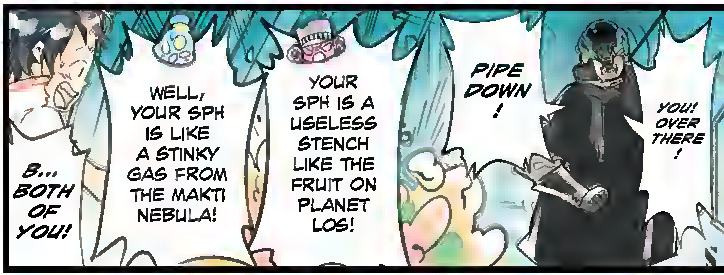
WE DON'T KNOW THAT-CHU!

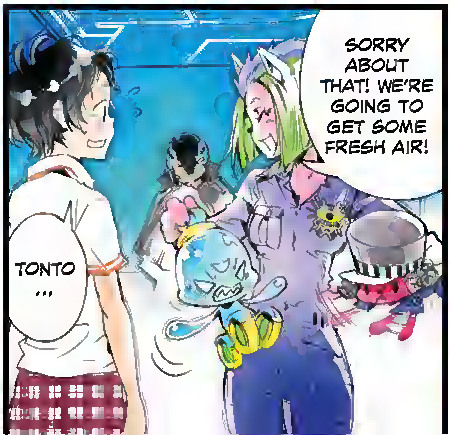

MISUZU'S OBVIOUSLY THE SPY!
SUSPECTED? THE CAMERAS CAUGHT HER LETTING THAT CRIMINAL ESCAPE.


THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT-CHU. MISUZU'S SUSPECTED OF FOUL PLAY-CHU...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAVE TO DO THIS WHEN WE'RE ALREADY BUSY ENOUGH AS IT IS-CLEANING UP AFTER THAT FIGHT WITH THE DEMILLE IS HARD WORK! IT'S RIDICULOUS THAT ANY PERSONNEL THAT WERE IN CONTACT WITH MISUZU NOW HAVE TO BE INTERROGATED.


I'VE BEEN WITH MISUZU EVER SINCE I FIRST JOINED THIS BRANCH, SO I WOULD KNOW-CHU!
MISUZU WOULD NEVER DO THAT-CHU!

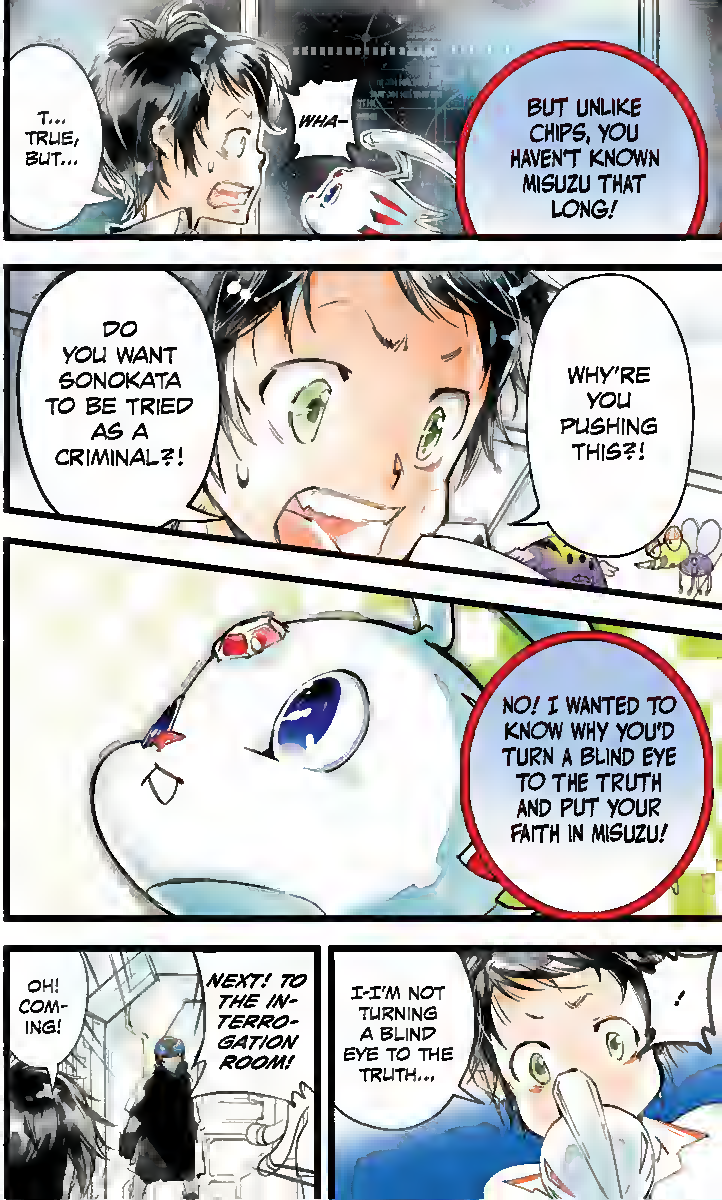
IT'S A WASTE OF TIME!
MISUZU HASN'T CONFESSED TO ANYTHING. THAT'S WHY WE'RE BEING INTERROGATED TOO-CHU!
IN ADDITION TO ASSISTING IN THIS ESCAPE, SHE MIGHT'VE ALSO BEEN COLLECTING INFORMATION ON US TOO!

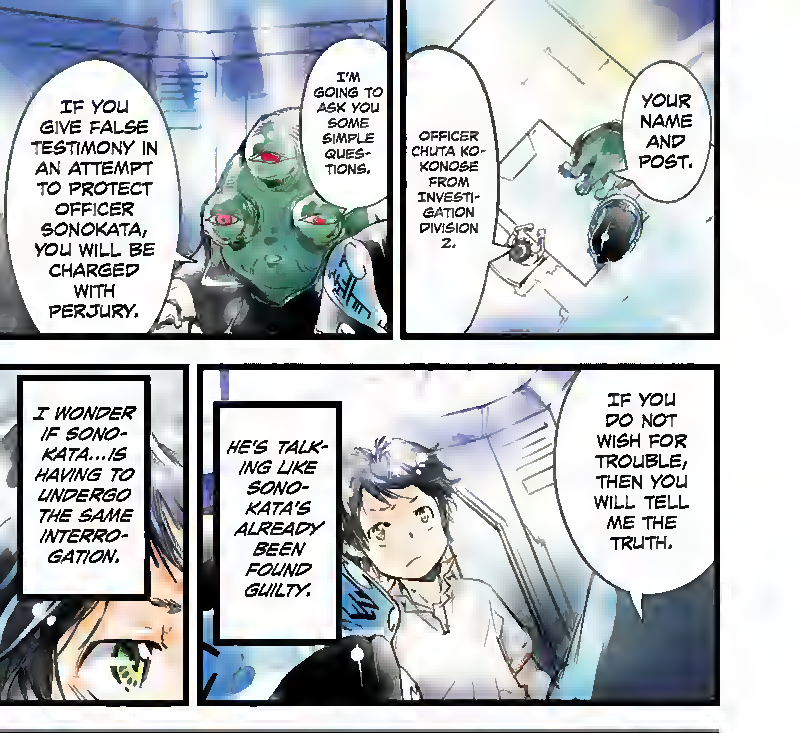

B... BOTH OF YOU!
WELL, YOUR SPH IS LIKE A STINKY GAS FROM THE MAKTI NEBULA!
YOUR SPH IS A USELESS STENCH LIKE THE FRUIT ON PLANET LOS!
PIPE DOWN!
YOU! OVER THERE!


TONTO ...
SORRY ABOUT THAT! WE'RE GOING TO GET SOME FRESH AIR!

TUG
YOINK
THAT'S ENOUGH.

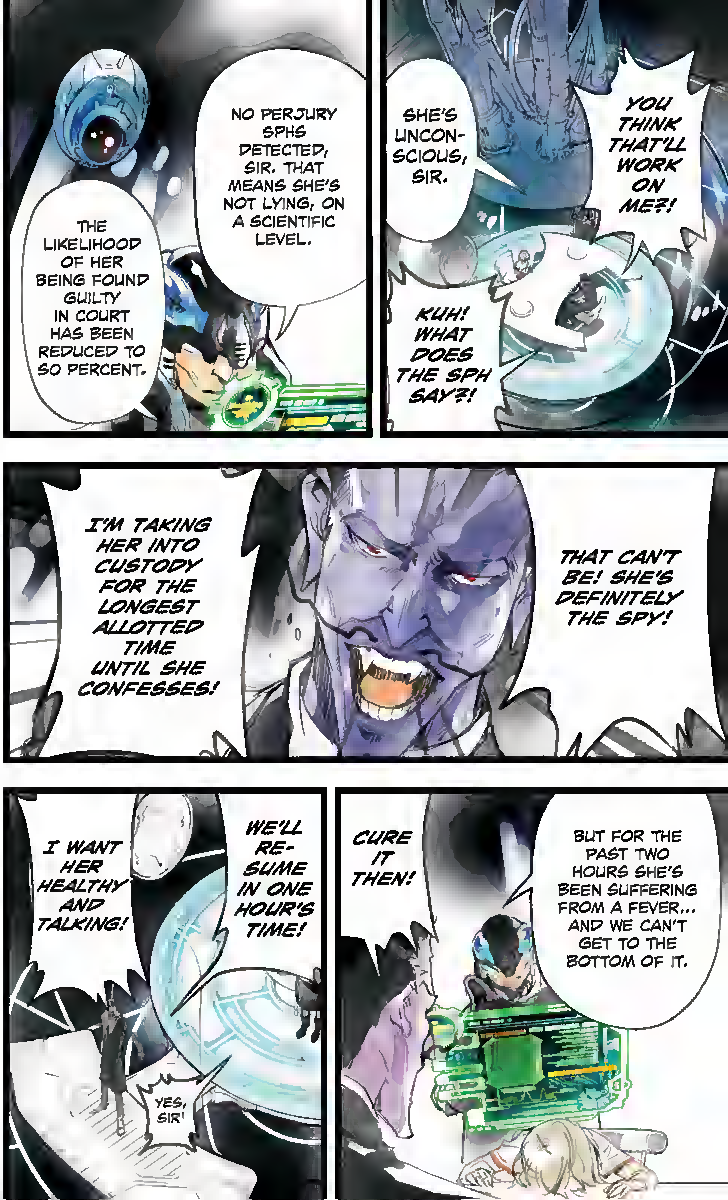
HUH?
CHUTA, DO YOU THINK MISUZU'S THE SPY WHO LET A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL ESCAPE?
TCH! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
EVERYONE'S SHAKEN UP, SO STOP CAUSING A SCENE!
!
...
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS CAUGHT ON CAMERA?
OF COURSE NOT!
?
POP
BECAUSE... WELL...FOR THE SAME REASON THAT INSPECTOR CHIPS DOES!
EVEN THEN, I STILL TRUST HER.


T... TRUE, BUT...
WHA–
BUT UNLIKE CHIPS, YOU HAVEN'T KNOWN MISUZU THAT LONG!
DO YOU WANT SONOKATA TO BE TRIED AS A CRIMINAL?!
WHY'RE YOU PUSHING THIS?!
NO! I WANTED TO KNOW WHY YOU'D TURN A BLIND EYE TO THE TRUTH AND PUT YOUR FAITH IN MISUZU!
OH! COM-ING!
NEXT! TO THE IN-TERRO-GATION ROOM!
I-I'M NOT TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THE TRUTH...
!


YOUR NAME AND POST.
OFFICER CHUTA KOKONOSE FROM INVESTIGATION DIVISION 2.
I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOME SIMPLE QUESTIONS.
IF YOU GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROTECT OFFICER SONOKATA, YOU WILL BE CHARGED WITH PERJURY.
IF YOU DO NOT WISH FOR TROUBLE, THEN YOU WILL TELL ME THE TRUTH.
HE'S TALKING LIKE SONOKATA'S ALREADY BEEN FOUND GUILTY.
I WONDER IF SONOKATA...IS HAVING TO UNDERGO THE SAME INTERROGATION.
INTERROGATION ROOM 1

I DON'T KNOW.
I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF THAT.
OFFICER
MISUZU SONOKATA
INVESTIGATIION DIVISION 2
WE HAVE FOOTAGE OF YOU SHUTTING DOWN THE GRID TO THE DETENTION HALL! AND THESE CAMERAS CAN'T BE TAMPERED WITH!
I'M TIRED OF YOUR FEIGNED IGNORANCE!
INSPECTOR
BELARGO
MOTHERS

HUFF
HUFF
I DON'T KNOW ...
I...
HUFF
WHAT ARE YOU PLOTTING?!
YOU PURPOSELY LET THE SUSPECT GO AND THEN KILLED HIM!
SHF
THUD


NO PERJURY SPHS DETECTED, SIR. THAT MEANS SHE'S NOT LYING, ON A SCIENTIFIC LEVEL.
THE LIKELIHOOD OF HER BEING FOUND GUILTY IN COURT HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 50 PERCENT.
SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS, SIR.
KUH! WHAT DOES THE SPH SAY?!
YOU THINK THAT'LL WORK ON ME?!
I'M TAKING HER INTO CUSTODY FOR THE LONGEST ALLOTTED TIME UNTIL SHE CONFESSES!
THAT CAN'T BE! SHE'S DEFINITELY THE SPY!
I WANT HER HEALTHY AND TALKING!
WE'LL RESUME IN ONE HOUR'S TIME!
YES, SIR!
CURE IT THEN!
BUT FOR THE PAST TWO HOURS SHE'S BEEN SUFFERING FROM A FEVER... AND WE CAN'T GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT.

I'VE BEEN WAITING.
WHAT AN IRRITATING YOUNG LADY!
PSSHT
!!
UUH ...
éIDLIVE
LANE BRICK
SOLAR SYSTEM BRANCH CHIEF
BZZT
I'M... SORRY, INSPECTOR
TWCH
TWCH
LANE BRICK!

I HAD TO RESORT TO SELF-DEFENSE.
YOUR MAN WAS TRYING TO EXPEL ME FROM THE PREMISES WITH FORCE.
I REQUEST AN AUDIENCE WITH OFFICER MISUZU SONO-KATA.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
IF YOU DOUBT MY WORD, YOU CAN CHECK THE SECURITY FOOTAGE.
HMPH!
HMM...
SONOKATA IS UNDER MY LAWFUL CUSTODY, AND I'M NOT OBLIGATED TO GRANT YOU ANY TIME WITH HER.
DENIED!

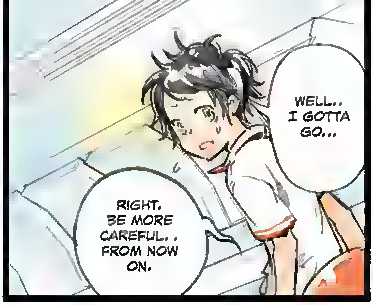
MISUZU PROBABLY HAS A FEVER BY NOW.
AND ANOTHER THING. I'LL BE PROLONGING MY STAY HERE...
...UNTIL MISUZU SONOKATA CONFESSES!
IF A SUSPECT'S PHYSICAL CONDITION SUFFERS DURING AN INTERROGATION...
...SHE'S TO RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE FROM HER PERSONAL PHYSICIAN.
HMPH!
PERSONAL PHYSICIAN?
THAT RIGHT'S RESERVED ONLY FOR SPECIAL PATIENTS OVER LEVEL 50.
YES. THAT'S WHY I MENTIONED IT.

BECAUSE MISUZU SONO-KATA...
...IS ONE OF THOSE PATIENTS.
W...
WHAT?!

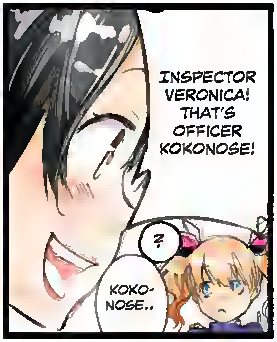
SO THAT WAS THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR CONVERSATION WITH OFFICER SONOKATA IN THE PRISON BLOCK?
YES.
YES.
THE TRUTH THIS, THE TRUTH THAT...
AND EVERYTHING YOU'VE TOLD ME IS THE TRUTH?
STARE
ギョロ
GAAH!
!!
LOOK ME IN THE EYES AND SAY IT!
BOOM
ドン
THADUMP
ドキドキ
THADUMP
I'M READY FOR THE NEXT PERSON.
VERY WELL.
YES, SIR!
Y...

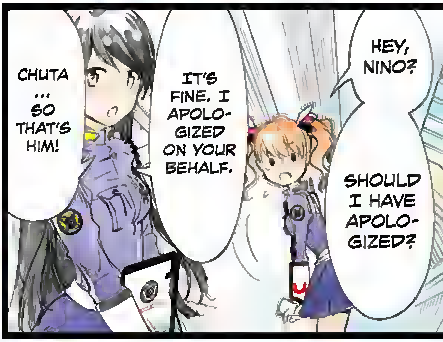
SWAY
SWAY
!
BEFORE THE INTERROGATION, YOU ASKED ME WHY I TRUST SONOKATA...
CHUTA, IS SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
SMAK
EEK!
OW!
!
SHF
UH.
AH!
SWAY
WOBBL
OW, OW ...!
YOU OKAY, CHUTA?
OWIE!
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!
YOU COULD'VE BROKEN MY HORN!

!!
NOW SHE'S GETTING MAD AT ME?!
WHAT?!
I JUST WOKE UP!!
I DON'T REMEMBER DOING THAT!
Horn?
Y-YOU'RE THE ONE WHO RAN INTO ME!
INSPECTOR? OH! THESE TWO ARE WEARING eIDLIVE UNIFORMS.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
!
I'M SORRY.
INSPECTOR VERONICA'S SUFFERING FROM JET LAG.
CHUTA!
DO YOU HAVE A SEC?!
!
THEY LOOK TO BE ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS ME.
I WONDER IF SHE'S HUMAN.


WELL.. I GOTTA GO...
RIGHT. BE MORE CAREFUL.. FROM NOW ON.

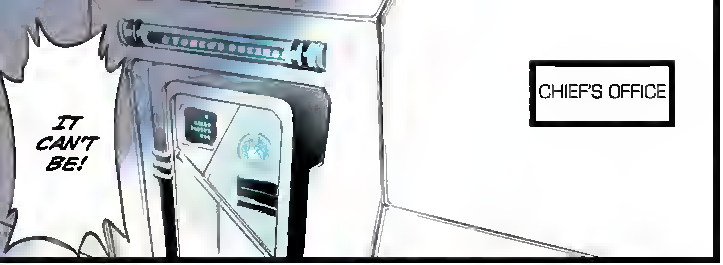
I WONDER WHAT FOR.
PROFESSOR ISAKU'S CALLING YOU.

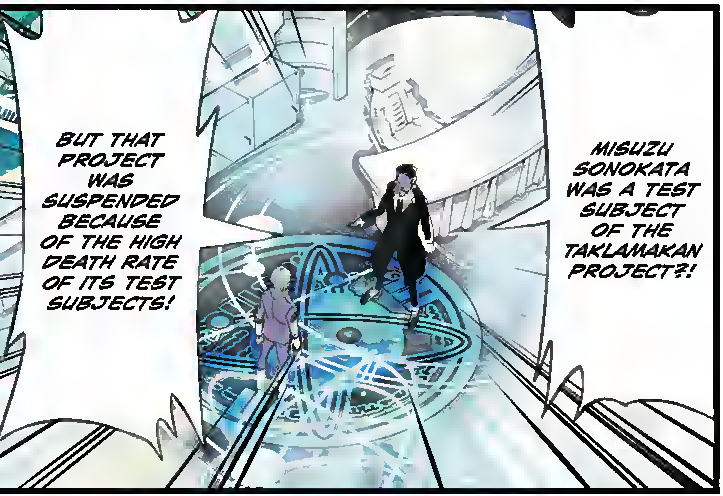

INSPECTOR VERONICA! THAT'S OFFICER KOKONOSE!
?
KOKO-NOSE..

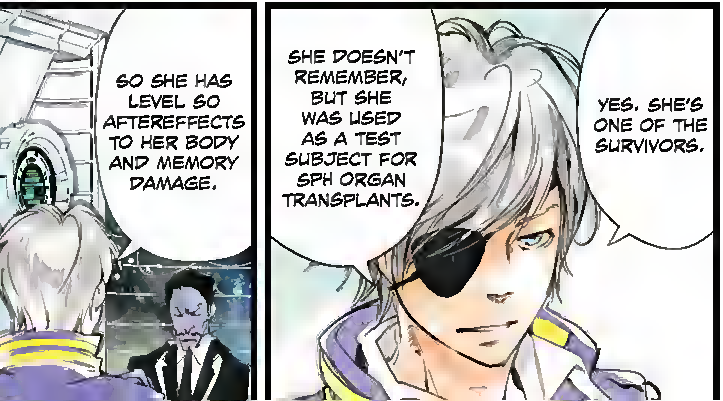

CHUTA ... SO THAT'S HIM!
IT'S FINE. I APOLO-GIZED ON YOUR BEHALF.
HEY, NINO?
SHOULD I HAVE APOLO-GIZED?

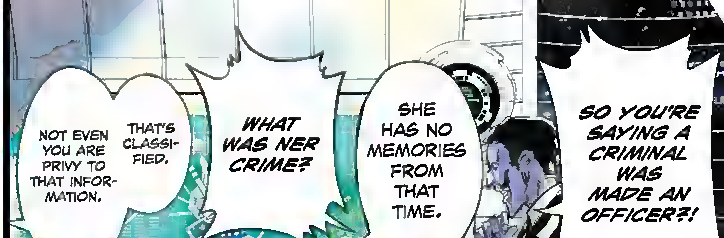
NEXT PERSON, GET TO THE IN-TERRO-GATION ROOM AT ONCE!
WHAT ARE YOU DO-ING?!
!
COM-ING!

YOU MEAN THE ROOKIE FROM THE INVESTI-GATION DIVISION 2?
HUH?!

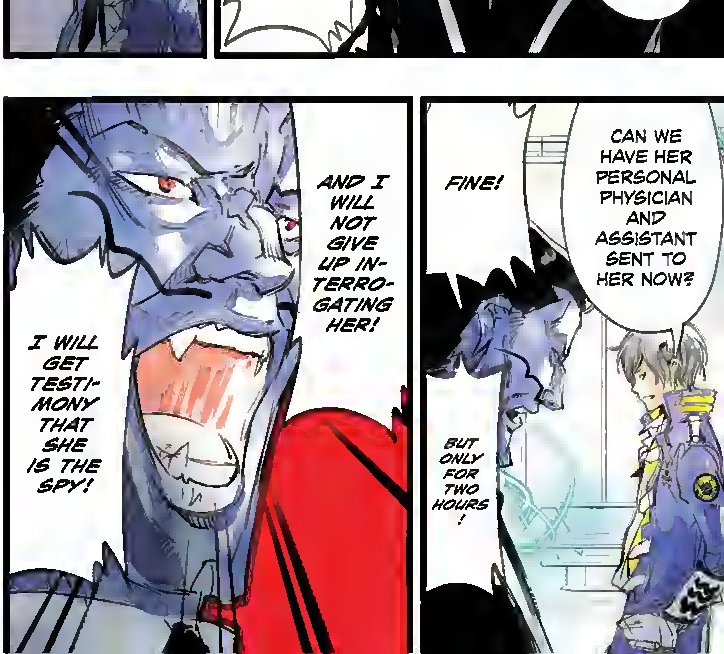

IT CAN'T BE!
CHIEF'S OFFICE

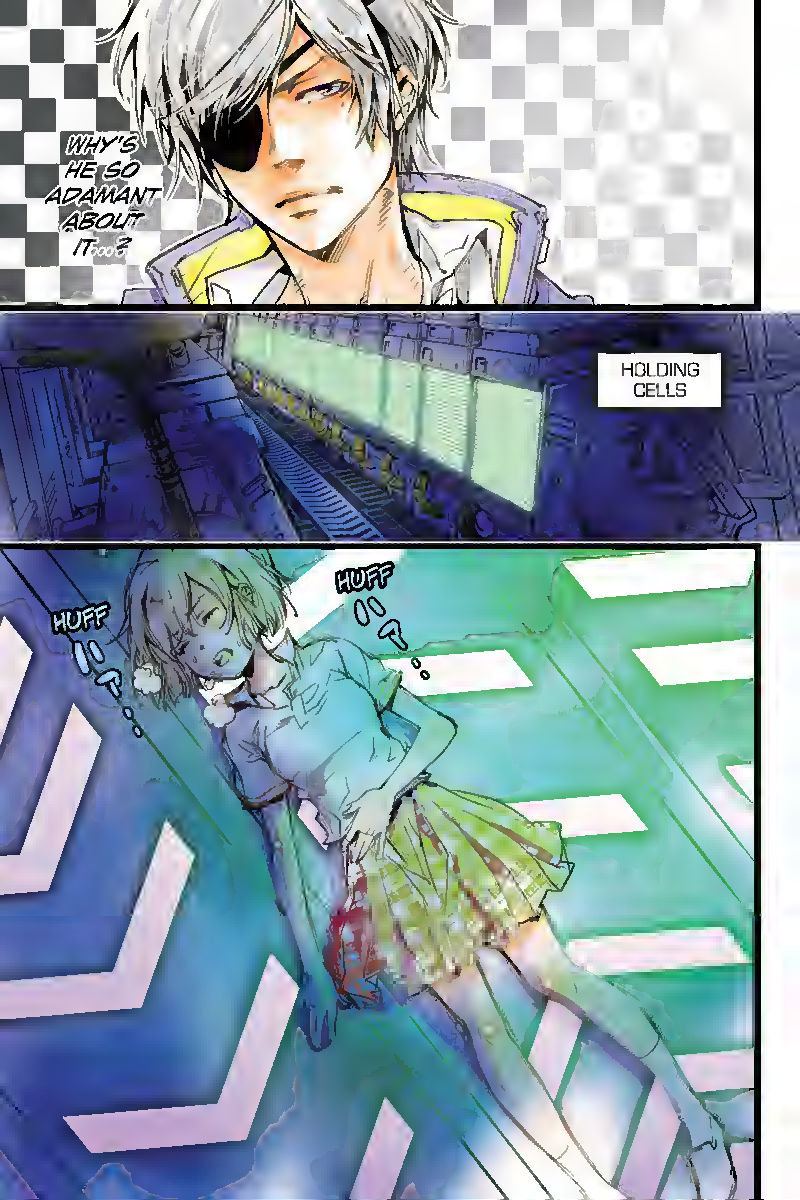

BUT THAT PROJECT WAS SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF THE HIGH DEATH RATE OF ITS TEST SUBJECTS!
MISUZU SONOKATA WAS A TEST SUBJECT OF THE TAKLAMAKAN PROJECT?!

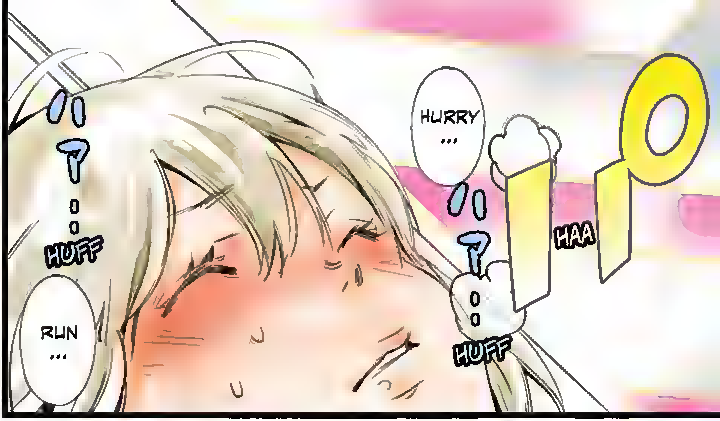

SO SHE HAS LEVEL SO AFTEREFFECTS TO HER BODY AND MEMORY DAMAGE.
SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER, BUT SHE WAS USED AS A TEST SUBJECT FOR SPH ORGAN TRANSPLANTS.
YES. SHE'S ONE OF THE SURVIVORS.

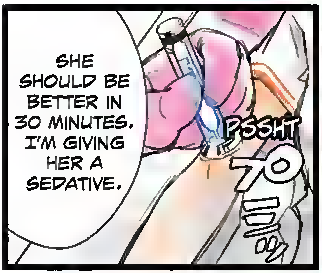

SO YOU'RE SAYING A CRIMINAL WAS MADE AN OFFICER?!
SHE HAS NO MEMORIES FROM THAT TIME.
WHAT WAS HER CRIME?
THAT'S CLASSIFIED.
NOT EVEN YOU ARE PRIVY TO THAT INFORMATION.

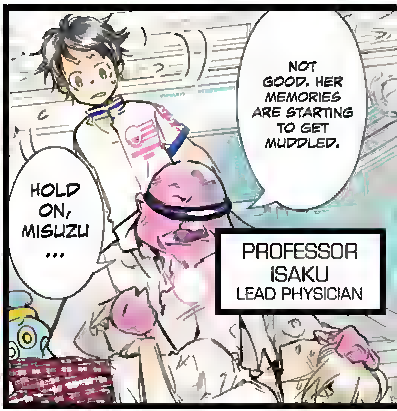
TCH. WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THIS BRANCH POST?! FIRST THE MONITALIAN CARRIER AND NOW AN AFFILIATION WITH THAT PROJECT..
IS THIS SOME KIND OF ANIMAL-TESTING FACILITY?!


CAN WE HAVE HER PERSONAL PHYSICIAN AND ASSISTANT SENT TO HER NOW?
FINE!
BUT ONLY FOR TWO HOURS!
AND I WILL NOT GIVE UP INTERROGATING HER!
I WILL GET TESTIMONY THAT SHE IS THE SPY!

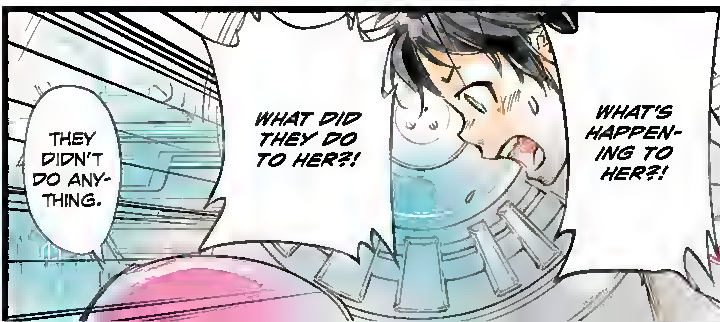

WHY'S HE SO ADAMANT ABOUT IT...?
HOLDING CELLS
HUFF
HUFF


HURRY ...
HUFF
HAA
HUFF
RUN ...

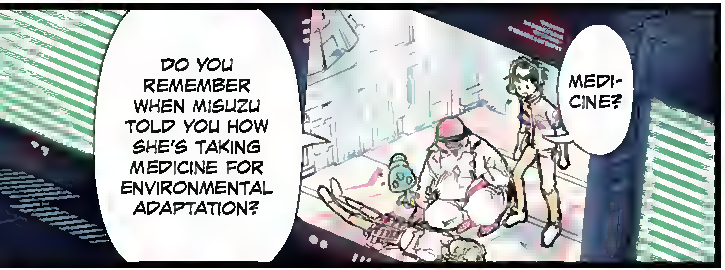

SHE SHOULD BE BETTER IN 30 MINUTES. I'M GIVING HER A SEDATIVE.
PSSHT

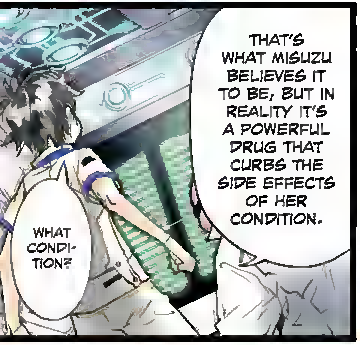

NOT GOOD. HER MEMORIES ARE STARTING TO GET MUDDLED.
HOLD ON, MISUZU ...
PROFESSOR ISAKU
LEAD PHYSICIAN

...

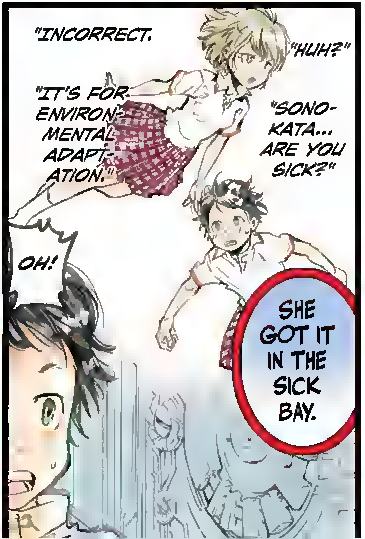

THEY DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
WHAT DID THEY DO TO HER?!
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING TO HER?!

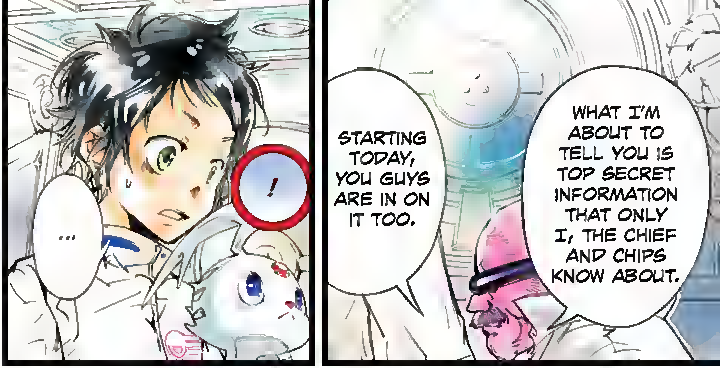
?!
?!
SHE JUST RAN OUT OF MEDICINE...

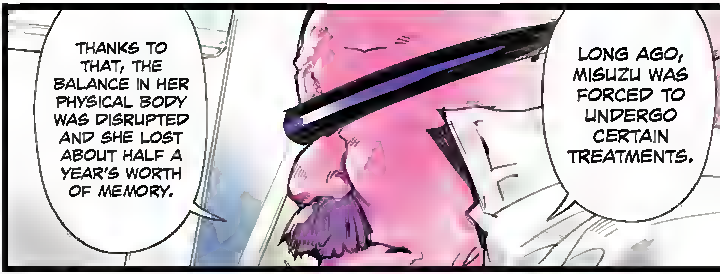

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN MISUZU TOLD YOU HOW SHE'S TAKING MEDICINE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADAPTATION?
MEDI-CINE?

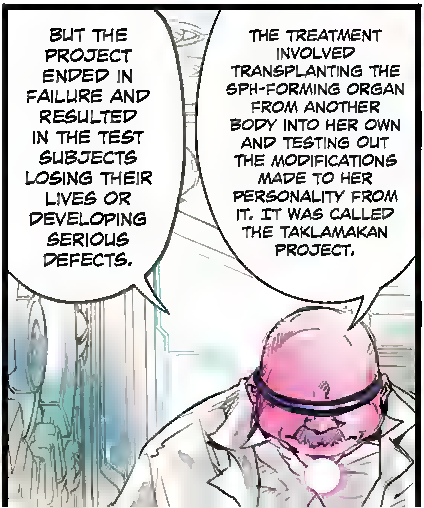

WHAT CONDI-TION?
THAT'S WHAT MISUZU BELIEVES IT TO BE, BUT IN REALITY IT'S A POWERFUL DRUG THAT CURBS THE SIDE EFFECTS OF HER CONDITION.

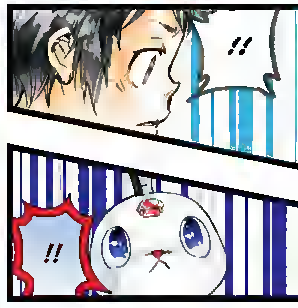
HM...


"INCORRECT.
"IT'S FOR ENVIRON-MENTAL ADAPT-ATION."
"HUH?"
"SONO-KATA... ARE YOU SICK?"
OH!
SHE GOT IT IN THE SICK BAY.


!
...
STARTING TODAY, YOU GUYS ARE IN ON IT TOO.
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU IS TOP SECRET INFORMATION THAT ONLY I, THE CHIEF AND CHIPS KNOW ABOUT.


THANKS TO THAT, THE BALANCE IN HER PHYSICAL BODY WAS DISRUPTED AND SHE LOST ABOUT HALF A YEAR'S WORTH OF MEMORY.
LONG AGO, MISUZU WAS FORCED TO UNDERGO CERTAIN TREATMENTS.


BUT THE PROJECT ENDED IN FAILURE AND RESULTED IN THE TEST SUBJECTS LOSING THEIR LIVES OR DEVELOPING SERIOUS DEFECTS.
THE TREATMENT INVOLVED TRANSPLANTING THE SPH-FORMING ORGAN FROM ANOTHER BODY INTO HER OWN AND TESTING OUT THE MODIFICATIONS MADE TO HER PERSONALITY FROM IT. IT WAS CALLED THE TAKLAMAKAN PROJECT.


!!
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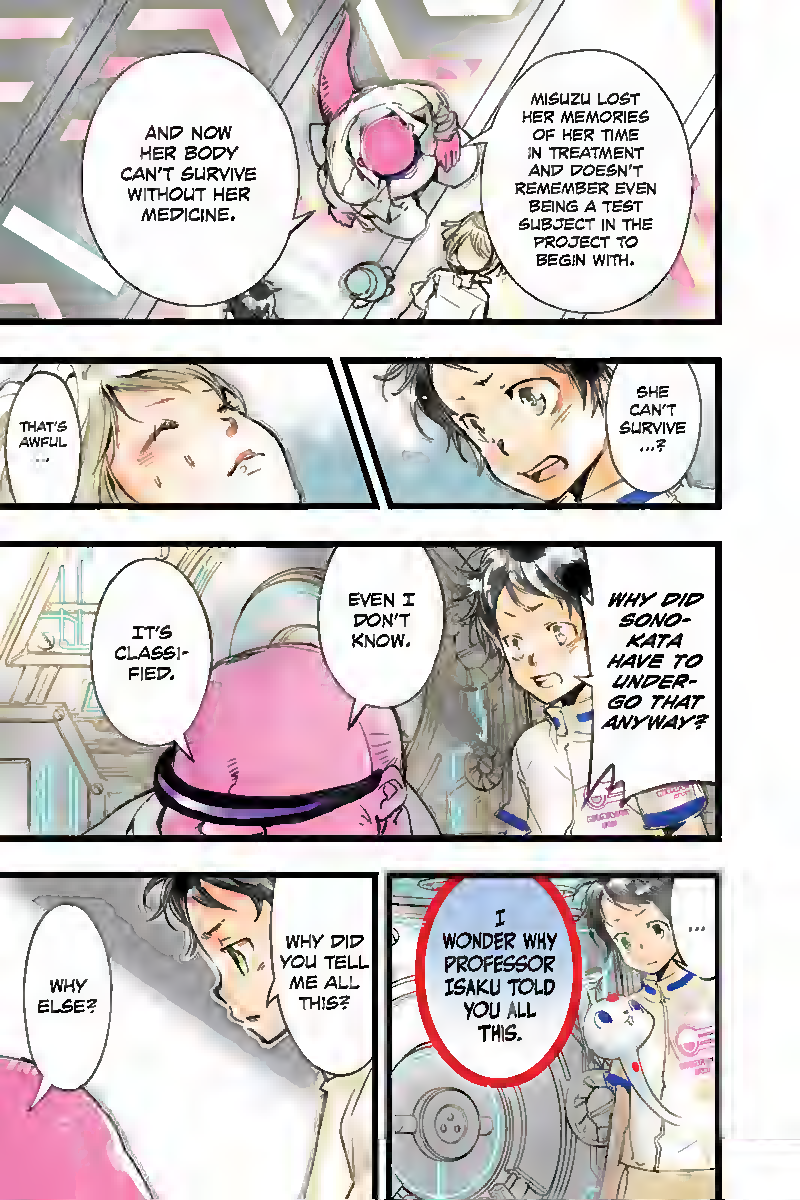
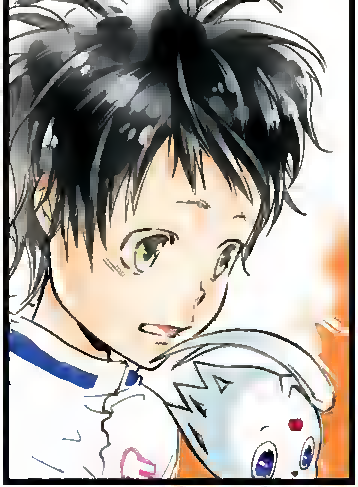
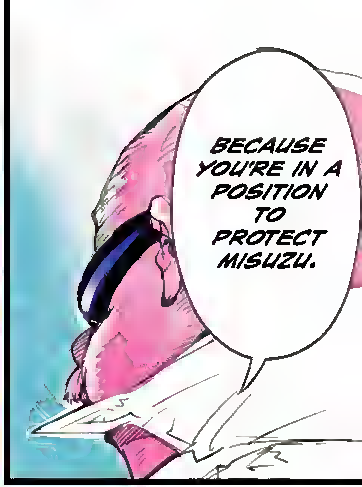
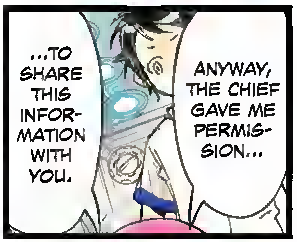
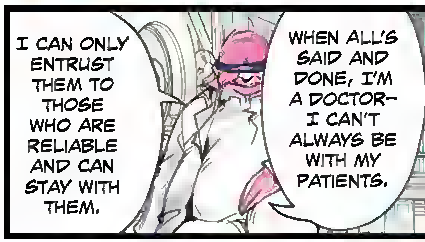
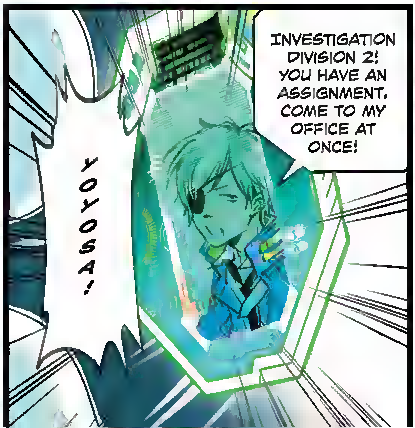

AND NOW HER BODY CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT HER MEDICINE.
MISUZU LOST HER MEMORIES OF HER TIME IN TREATMENT AND DOESN'T REMEMBER EVEN BEING A TEST SUBJECT IN THE PROJECT TO BEGIN WITH.
THAT'S AWFUL...
SHE CAN'T SURVIVE...?
IT'S CLASSIFIED.
EVEN I DON'T KNOW.
WHY DID SONOKATA HAVE TO UNDERGO THAT ANYWAY?
WHY ELSE?
WHY DID YOU TELL ME ALL THIS?
I WONDER WHY PROFESSOR ISAKU TOLD YOU ALL THIS.
...

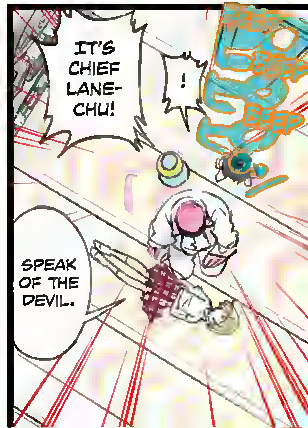


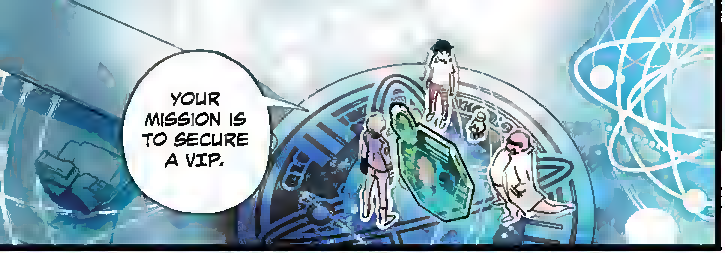

BECAUSE YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO PROTECT MISUZU.

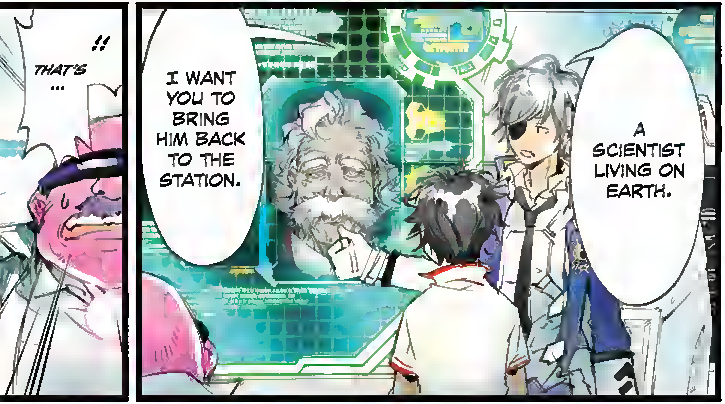

...TO SHARE THIS INFOR-MATION WITH YOU.
ANYWAY, THE CHIEF GAVE ME PERMIS-SION...

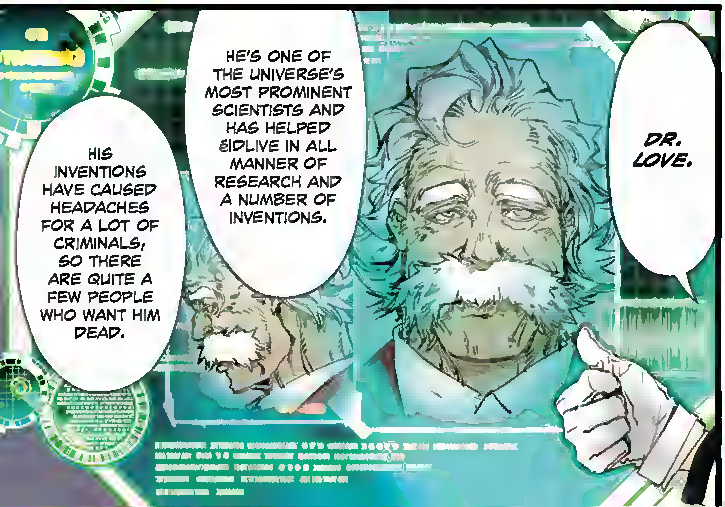

I CAN ONLY ENTRUST THEM TO THOSE WHO ARE RELIABLE AND CAN STAY WITH THEM.
WHEN ALL'S SAID AND DONE, I'M A DOCTOR- I CAN'T ALWAYS BE WITH MY PATIENTS.

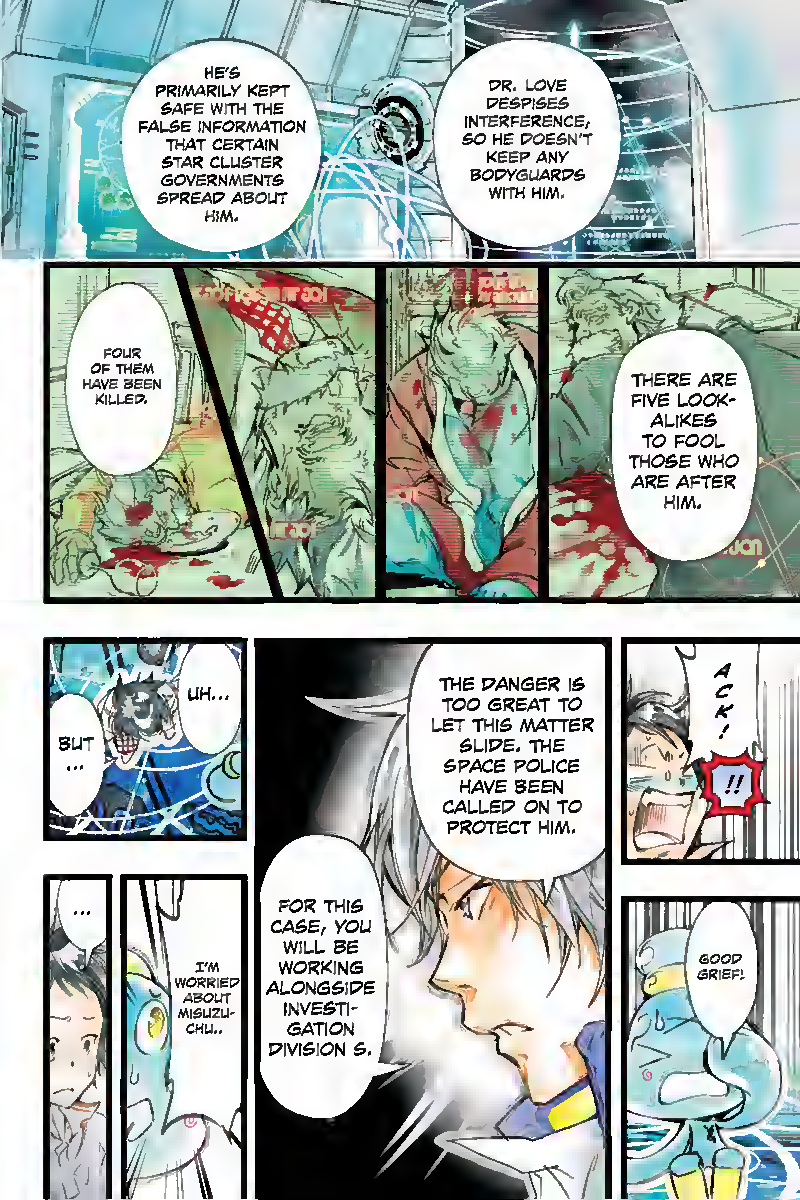

YOYOSA.
INVESTIGATION DIVISION 2! YOU HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT. COME TO MY OFFICE AT ONCE!

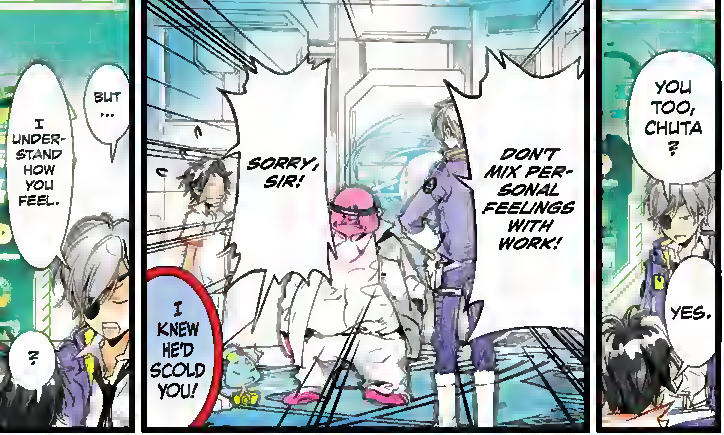

IT'S CHIEF LANE-CHU!
!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.

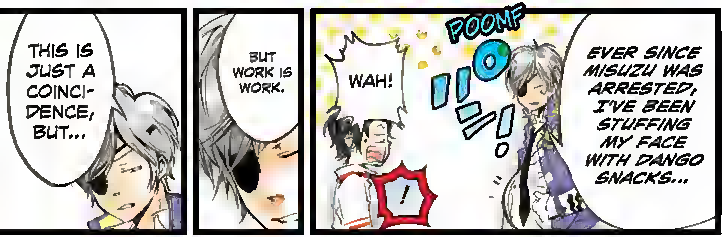

YOUR MISSION IS TO SECURE A VIP.


!!
THAT'S ...
I WANT YOU TO BRING HIM BACK TO THE STATION.
A SCIENTIST LIVING ON EARTH.

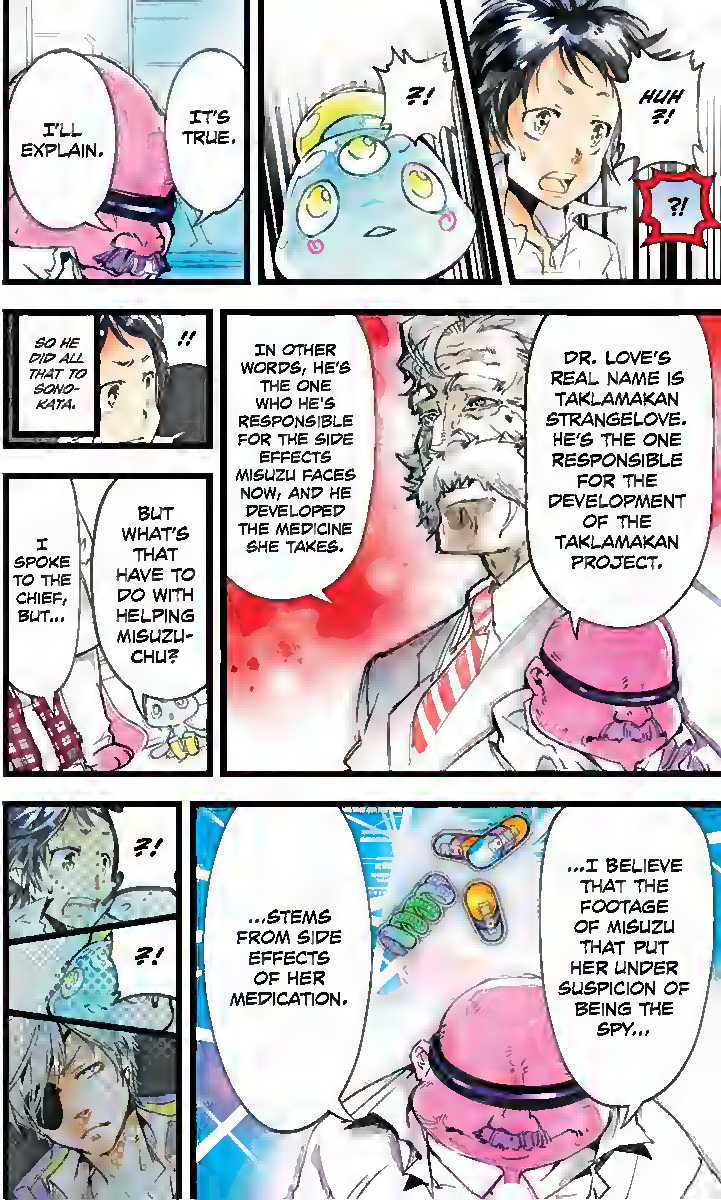

HIS INVENTIONS HAVE CAUSED HEADACHES FOR A LOT OF CRIMINALS, SO THERE ARE QUITE A FEW PEOPLE WHO WANT HIM DEAD.
HE'S ONE OF THE UNIVERSE'S MOST PROMINENT SCIENTISTS AND HAS HELPED ĕIDLIVE IN ALL MANNER OF RESEARCH AND A NUMBER OF INVENTIONS.
DR. LOVE.

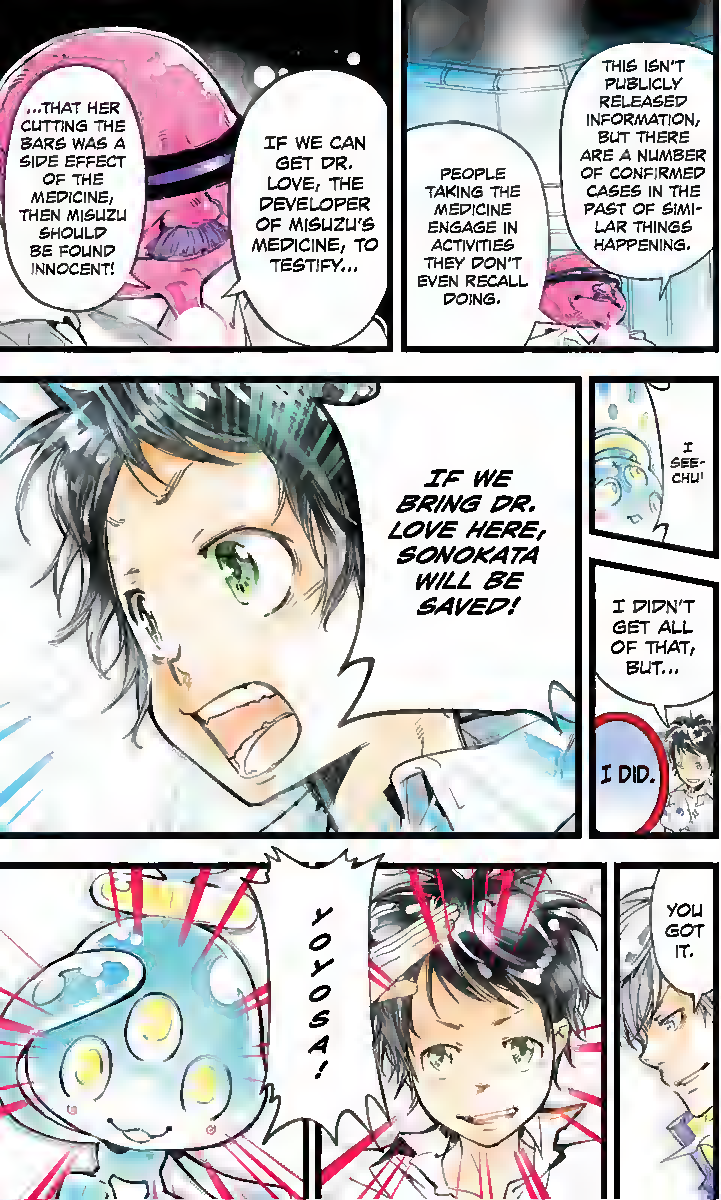

HE'S PRIMARILY KEPT SAFE WITH THE FALSE INFORMATION THAT CERTAIN STAR CLUSTER GOVERNMENTS SPREAD ABOUT HIM.
DR. LOVE DESPISES INTERFERENCE, SO HE DOESN'T KEEP ANY BODYGUARDS WITH HIM.
FOUR OF THEM HAVE BEEN KILLED.
THERE ARE FIVE LOOK-ALIKES TO FOOL THOSE WHO ARE AFTER HIM.
UH...
BUT...
THE DANGER IS TOO GREAT TO LET THIS MATTER SLIDE. THE SPACE POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED ON TO PROTECT HIM.
FOR THIS CASE, YOU WILL BE WORKING ALONGSIDE INVESTI-GATION DIVISION 5.
ACK!
!!
...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT MISUZU-CHU..
GOOD GRIEF!

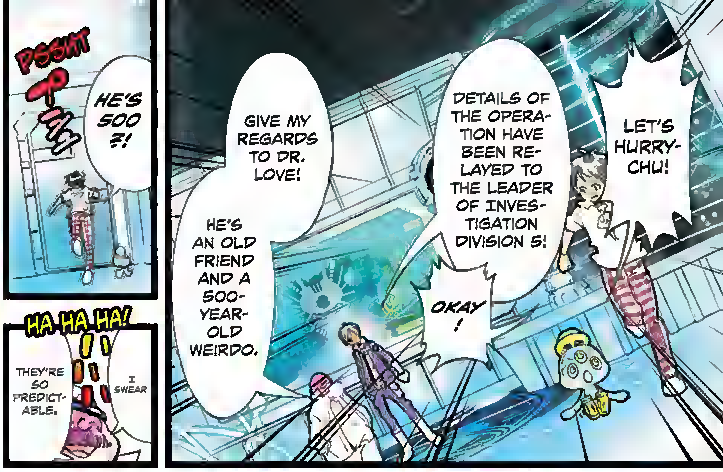

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
BUT...
?
I KNEW HE'D SCOLD YOU!
SORRY, SIR!
DON'T MIX PERSONAL FEELINGS WITH WORK!
YOU TOO, CHUTA?
YES.

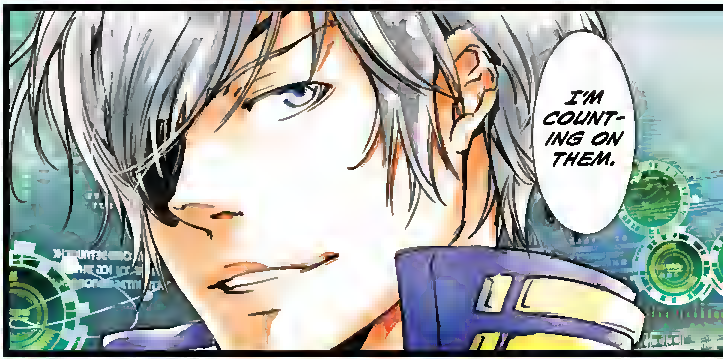

THIS IS JUST A COINCIDENCE, BUT...
BUT WORK IS WORK.
WAH!
POOMP
EVER SINCE MISUZU WAS ARRESTED, I'VE BEEN STUFFING MY FACE WITH DANGO SNACKS...

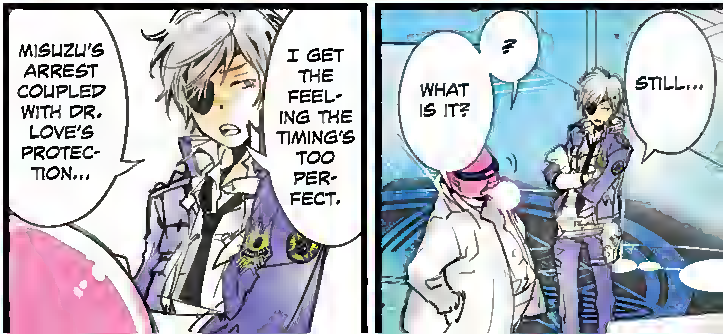
...MAY SERVE AS A MEANS TO SAVE MISUZU.
...THIS MISSION...


I'LL EXPLAIN.
IT'S TRUE.
?!
HUH ?!
?!
SO HE DID ALL THAT TO SONO-KATA.
!!
I SPOKE TO THE CHIEF, BUT...
BUT WHAT'S THAT HAVE TO DO WITH HELPING MISUZU-CHU?
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S THE ONE WHO HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SIDE EFFECTS MISUZU FACES NOW, AND HE DEVELOPED THE MEDICINE SHE TAKES.
DR. LOVE'S REAL NAME IS TAKLAMAKAN STRANGELOVE. HE'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAKLAMAKAN PROJECT.
?!
?!
...STEMS FROM SIDE EFFECTS OF HER MEDICATION.
...I BELIEVE THAT THE FOOTAGE OF MISUZU THAT PUT HER UNDER SUSPICION OF BEING THE SPY...

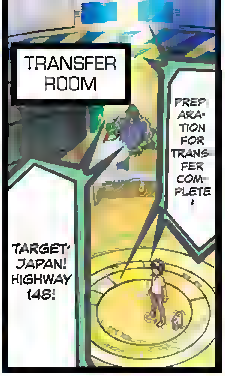

...THAT HER CUTTING THE BARS WAS A SIDE EFFECT OF THE MEDICINE, THEN MISUZU SHOULD BE FOUND INNOCENT!
IF WE CAN GET DR. LOVE, THE DEVELOPER OF MISUZU'S MEDICINE, TO TESTIFY...
PEOPLE TAKING THE MEDICINE ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES THEY DON'T EVEN RECALL DOING.
THIS ISN'T PUBLICLY RELEASED INFORMATION, BUT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES IN THE PAST OF SIMILAR THINGS HAPPENING.
IF WE BRING DR. LOVE HERE, SONOKATA WILL BE SAVED!
I SEE-CHU!
I DIDN'T GET ALL OF THAT, BUT...
I DID.
YOYOSA!
YOU GOT IT.


PSSHT
HE'S SOO F!
HA HA HA!
THEY'RE SO PREDICTABLES.
I SWEAR
GIVE MY REGARDS TO DR. LOVE!
HE'S AN OLD FRIEND AND A 500-YEAR-OLD WEIRDO.
DETAILS OF THE OPERATION HAVE BEEN RELAYED TO THE LEADER OF INVESTIGATION DIVISION 5!
OKAY!
LET'S HURRY-CHU!


I'M COUNTING ON THEM.


MISUZU'S ARREST COUPLED WITH DR. LOVE'S PROTECTION...
I GET THE FEELING THE TIMING'S TOO PERFECT.
WHAT IS IT?
?
STILL...

TRANS-
FER!!
DSSHT
ニィッ


TRANSFER
ROOM
PREP-
ARA-
TION
FOR
TRANS-
FER
COM-
PLETE
!
TARGET:
JAPAN!
HIGHWAY
148!

THANKS,
SHERO-
NIMO-
CHU!
PLEASE
DON'T
TURN US
UPSIDE
DOWN
TODAY!

LEAVE IT
TO ME-
SHERO!